

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* near Accra: a first record for Ghana

Sveinung Hobberstad

Un Etourneau caronculé *Creatophora cinerea* près d'Accra: première donnée pour le Ghana. Un Etourneau caronculé *Creatophora cinerea* a été vu dans un jardin près d'Accra le 1er juillet 2003. Ceci constitue la première mention pour le Ghana et la seule donnée pour cette espèce entre les environs du Lac Tchad au Nigeria et la Gambie.

On 1 July 2003 I was birding in a market garden at Dansoman, on the western outskirts of Accra (05°31'N 00°19'W), an area of c.1 ha comprising fruit trees and vegetable plots. An unfamiliar starling was perched in a tree c.15–20 m from me, and I was able to watch it for approximately 30 seconds. Its overall coloration was grey, with contrasting black in the wings, and it had a pale bill. Shortly thereafter I consulted Borrow & Demey (2001) and immediately identified it as a Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*, clearly in non-breeding dress, because the bird lacked yellow wattles. I have visited Ghana five times, some seven months in all, and this is the only time I have noticed this species.

This is the first record for Ghana and the only report of Wattled Starling between the Lake Chad area of Nigeria (Ottoosson *et al.* 2002) and The Gambia (Gore 1990, Barlow *et al.* 1997). The species is known to be an erratic wanderer, having even reached the Seychelles and Aldabra (Skerrett & the Seychelles Bird Records Committee 2001).

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Dysjalslandsvegen 186, 4360 Varhaug, Norway. E-mail: post@sveinunghobberstad.com

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